

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (New): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body, the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part,

wherein a plurality of notch parts are provided in the guide part; and

wherein one of the notch parts in a center part of the guide part has a width greater than a width of one of the notch parts in an end part of the guide part.

Claim 20 (New): The fixing device claimed in claim 19,

wherein the head end part is thinner than the guide part.

Claim 21 (New): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body; the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part provided in the guide part via a heat insulating material.

Claim 22 (New): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body, the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part,

wherein a notch part is provided in the guide part; and

a vapor receiving part is provided inside the notch part.

Claim 23 (New): The fixing device as claimed in claim 22,

wherein the vapor receiving part inclines to a side of the surface moving body.

Claim 24 (New): The fixing device as claimed in claim 22,

wherein the vapor receiving part is made of a material having a thermal conductivity lower than a thermal conductivity of the guide part.

Claim 25 (New): The fixing device as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the head end part is thinner than the guide part.

Claim 26 (New): The fixing device as claimed in claim 19,

wherein the surface moving body is a fixing belt.

Claim 27 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a fixing device claimed in one of claims 19 through 27.